

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1849

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. SKELTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “World War I Memorial  
5 and Centennial Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) More than 4,000,000 men and women from  
4 the United States served in uniform in the defense  
5 of liberty during World War I, among them two fu-  
6 ture presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D.  
7 Eisenhower.

8 (2) 2,000,000 individuals from the United  
9 States served overseas during World War I, includ-  
10 ing 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas.

11 (3) The United States suffered 375,000 casual-  
12 ties during World War I.

13 (4) The events of 1914 through 1918 shaped  
14 the world, our country, and the lives of millions of  
15 people in countless ways.

16 (5) The centennial of World War I offers an op-  
17 portunity for people in the United States to learn  
18 about the sacrifices of their predecessors.

19 (6) Commemorative efforts allow people in the  
20 United States to gain a historical understanding of  
21 the type of conflicts that cause countries to go to  
22 war and how those conflicts are resolved.

23 (7) Kansas City is home to the Liberty Memo-  
24 rial and America's National World War I Museum  
25 (as so recognized in the Ronald W. Reagan National

1 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005  
2 (Public Law 108–375)).

3 (8) America’s National World War I Museum  
4 seeks—

5 (A) to preserve the history of World War  
6 I; and

7 (B) to educate and enlighten people about  
8 this significant event, the consequences of which  
9 are still with us.

10 (9) Kansas City is home to the national head-  
11 quarters for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

12 (10) Missouri is the home State of General  
13 John Joseph Pershing, who commanded the Amer-  
14 ican Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World  
15 War I.

16 (11) The Kansas City area is the home of the  
17 Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum.

18 (12) The Dwight David Eisenhower Presi-  
19 dential Library and Museum is located close to Kan-  
20 sas City in the neighboring State of Kansas.

21 (13) There is no nationally recognized memorial  
22 honoring the service of Americans who served in  
23 World War I.

24 (14) In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Mis-  
25 souri, expressed an outpouring of support and raised

1 more than \$2,000,000 in two weeks for a memorial  
2 to the service of Americans in World War I. That  
3 fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by  
4 any other city in the United States irrespective of  
5 population and reflected the passion of public opin-  
6 ion about World War I, which had so recently ended.

7 (15) Following the drive, a national architecte-  
8 tural competition was held by the American Institute  
9 of Architects for designs for a memorial to the serv-  
10 ice of Americans in World War I, and the competi-  
11 tion yielded a design by architect H. Van Buren  
12 Magonigle.

13 (16) On November 1, 1921, more than 100,000  
14 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the  
15 Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. That  
16 dedication marked the only time in history that the  
17 five allied military leaders; Lieutenant General  
18 Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz  
19 of Italy, Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, Gen-  
20 eral John J. Pershing of the United States, and Ad-  
21 miral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were to-  
22 gether at one place.

23 (17) General Pershing noted at the November  
24 1, 1921, dedication that “[t]he people of Kansas  
25 City, Missouri, are deeply proud of the beautiful me-

1       morial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gal-  
2       lant achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their  
3       sons and daughters who served in our country's  
4       armed forces during the World War. It symbolized  
5       their grateful appreciation of duty well done, an ap-  
6       preciation which I share, because I know so well how  
7       richly it is merited".

8               (18) During an Armistice Day ceremony in  
9       1924, President Calvin Coolidge marked the begin-  
10      ning of a three-year construction project for the Lib-  
11      erty Memorial by the laying of the cornerstone of the  
12      memorial.

13              (19) The 217-foot Liberty Memorial Tower has  
14      an inscription that reads "In Honor of Those Who  
15      Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and  
16      Our Country" as well as four stone "Guardian Spir-  
17      its" representing courage, honor, patriotism, and  
18      sacrifice, which rise above the observation deck,  
19      making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all  
20      who served in World War I.

21              (20) During a rededication for the Liberty Me-  
22      morial in 1961, World War I veterans and former  
23      Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisen-  
24      hower recognized the memorial as a constant re-

1 minder of the sacrifices during World War I and the  
2 progress that followed.

3 (21) The 106th Congress recognized the Lib-  
4 erty Memorial as a national symbol of World War I.

5 (22) The National World War I Museum is the  
6 only public museum in the United States specifically  
7 dedicated to the history of World War I.

8 (23) The National World War I Museum is  
9 known throughout the world as a major center of  
10 World War I remembrance.

11 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AT THE**  
12 **NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM IN KANSAS**  
13 **CITY, MISSOURI, AS THE NATIONAL WORLD**  
14 **WAR I MEMORIAL.**

15 The Liberty Memorial at the National World War I  
16 Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, is hereby designated  
17 as the “National World War I Memorial”.

18 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**  
19 **CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-  
21 mission to be known as the World War I Centennial Com-  
22 mission (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Commission is to  
24 ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World  
25 War I that promotes the values of honor, courage, patriot-

1 ism, and sacrifice, in keeping with the representation of  
2 these values through the four Guardian Spirits sculpted  
3 on the Liberty Memorial Monument at America's National  
4 World War I Museum.

5 (c) DUTIES.—The Commission shall have the fol-  
6 lowing duties:

7 (1) To plan, develop, and execute programs,  
8 projects, and activities to commemorate the centen-  
9 nial of World War I.

10 (2) To encourage private organizations and  
11 State and local governments to organize and partici-  
12 pate in activities commemorating the centennial of  
13 World War I.

14 (3) To facilitate and coordinate activities  
15 throughout the United States related to the centen-  
16 nial of World War I.

17 (4) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collec-  
18 tion and dissemination of information about events  
19 and plans for the centennial of World War I.

20 (d) MEMBERSHIP.—

21 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Com-  
22 mission shall be composed of 24 members as follows:

23 (A) Four members appointed by the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 (B) Three members appointed by the mi-  
2 nority leader of the House of Representatives.

3 (C) Four members appointed by the Sen-  
4 ate majority leader.

5 (D) Three members appointed by the Sen-  
6 ate minority leader.

7 (E) Seven members who are broadly rep-  
8 resentative of the people of the United States  
9 (including members of the armed services and  
10 veterans), appointed by the President.

11 (F) The executive director of the Veterans  
12 of Foreign Wars of the United States (or the  
13 director's delegate).

14 (G) The executive director of the American  
15 Legion (or the director's delegate).

16 (H) The president of the Liberty Memorial  
17 Association, the nonprofit entity responsible for  
18 the management of America's National World  
19 War I Museum (or the president's delegate).

20 (2) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a  
21 member of the Commission under paragraph (1)(F)  
22 through (H) ceases to hold a position named in such  
23 paragraph, that member must resign from the Com-  
24 mission as of the date that the member ceases to  
25 hold that position.

1           (3) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed  
2           for the life of the Commission.

3           (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission  
4           shall be filled in the manner in which the original  
5           appointment was made.

6           (5) PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

7           (6) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall  
8           receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of  
9           subsistence, in accordance with the applicable provi-  
10          sions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,  
11          United States Code.

12          (7) QUORUM.—Thirteen members of the Com-  
13          mission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-  
14          ber may hold hearings.

15          (8) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
16          Commission shall elect the Chairperson and Vice  
17          Chairperson of the Commission.

18          (9) MEETINGS.—

19                (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
20                meet at the call of the Chairperson, except that  
21                the first meeting shall be held before the end of  
22                the 30-day period beginning on the effective  
23                date of this Act.

24                (B) LOCATION.—The Commission shall  
25                hold the first meeting at America's National

1           World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri,  
2           and thereafter shall hold at least one meeting  
3           per year at such location.

4           (e) DIRECTOR AND ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL OF THE  
5 COMMISSION; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—

6           (1) DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

7                   (A) APPOINTMENT.—The Chair of the  
8 Commission shall, in consultation with the  
9 members of the Commission, appoint an execu-  
10 tive director and such other additional per-  
11 sonnel as may be necessary to enable the Com-  
12 mission to perform its duties.

13           (B) PAY.—

14                   (i) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The exec-  
15 utive director shall be paid at a rate not to  
16 exceed the rate of basic pay payable for  
17 level IV of the Executive Schedule estab-  
18 lished under section 5315 of title 5, United  
19 State Code.

20                   (ii) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—The  
21 executive director may fix the pay of any  
22 additional personnel appointed under sub-  
23 paragraph (A) as the executive director  
24 considers appropriate.

1           (C) WORK LOCATION.—If the city govern-  
2           ment for Kansas City, Missouri, and the non-  
3           profit organization which administers America’s  
4           National World War I Museum make space  
5           available, the executive director and any addi-  
6           tional personnel appointed under subparagraph  
7           (A) shall work in the building that houses that  
8           museum.

9           (2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Com-  
10          mission may procure temporary and intermittent  
11          services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United  
12          States Code.

13          (3) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-  
14          quest of the Commission, the head of any Federal  
15          department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable  
16          basis, any personnel of that department or agency to  
17          the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties  
18          under this Act.

19          (f) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

20          (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—For the pur-  
21          pose of carrying out this Act, the Commission may  
22          hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take  
23          testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission  
24          considers appropriate.

1           (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—If  
2           authorized by the Commission, any member or agent  
3           of the Commission may take any action which the  
4           Commission is authorized to take by this section.

5           (3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commis-  
6           sion shall secure directly from any department or  
7           agency of the United States information necessary  
8           to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon the request  
9           of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of  
10          that department or agency shall furnish that infor-  
11          mation to the Commission.

12          (4) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—

13                (A) ACCEPTANCE BY COMMISSION.—The  
14                Commission may accept, use, and dispose of  
15                gifts, bequests, or devises of services or prop-  
16                erty, both real and personal, for the purpose of  
17                aiding or facilitating the work of the Commis-  
18                sion.

19                (B) DEPOSIT AND AVAILABILITY.—Gifts,  
20                bequests, or devises of money and proceeds  
21                from sales of other property received as gifts,  
22                bequests, or devises shall be deposited in the  
23                Treasury and shall be available for disburse-  
24                ment upon order of the Commission.

1           (5) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the  
2       United States mails in the same manner and under  
3       the same conditions as other departments and agen-  
4       cies of the United States.

5           (6) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—  
6       Upon the request of the Commission, the Adminis-  
7       trator of General Services shall provide to the Com-  
8       mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative  
9       support services necessary for the Commission to  
10      carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

11          (7) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—The Commission  
12      is authorized to procure supplies, services, and prop-  
13      erty and to make or enter in contracts, leases, or  
14      other legal agreements; except that any contract,  
15      lease, or other legal agreement made or entered into  
16      by the Commission may not extend beyond the date  
17      of termination of the Commission.

18      (g) **REPORTS.**—

19          (1) **PERIODIC REPORT.**—Beginning not later  
20      than the last day of the 3-month period beginning  
21      on the date of enactment of this Act and the last  
22      day of each 3-month period thereafter, the Commis-  
23      sion shall submit to Congress and the President a  
24      report on the activities and plans of the Commission.

1           (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 2  
2       years after the effective date of this Act, the Com-  
3       mission shall submit to Congress and the President  
4       a report containing specific recommendations for  
5       commemorating the centennial of World War I and  
6       coordinating related activities.

7       (h) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
8       on the earlier of the date that is 30 days after the activi-  
9       ties honoring the centennial observation of World War I  
10      are carried out or July 28, 2019. Section 14(a)(2)(B) of  
11      the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), re-  
12      lating to the termination of advisory committees, shall not  
13      apply to the Commission.

14      (i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall be effective  
15      on January 1, 2010.

○